Nathaniel Hawthorne

* Born – 1804
* First great American writer of psychological fiction
* William Hathorne – first American ancestor, was a magistrate who had a Quaker woman publicly whipped
* William’s son, John, was called “The Hanging Judge.” He presided over the Salem Witch Trials in 1692
* Nathaniel added the “W” to his last name to separate himself from these men
* Hawthorne was four when his father died on a sea voyage to Dutch Guinea
* Attended Bowdoin College and graduated in 1825
* *Fanshawe* was his first book, published in 1828
* In 1837, he met Sophia Peabody and they married and moved to Concord
* He became the surveyor of the Port of Salem
* His essay “The Custom-House” achieved political revenge after he lost his job on The Boston Common House in 1840 and served as the prologue to *The Scarlet Letter*.
* *The Scarlet Letter* published in 1850 and sold 4,000 copies in its first ten days
* *TSL* was popular because it addressed spiritual and moral issues from a uniquely American standpoint
* *The House of the Seven Gables* – 1851
* *Blithedale Romance* – 1852
* Franklin Pierce, President of US*,* offered Hawthorne the position of The American Consulship in England, he took it, and returned to American in 1860
* Died in 1864 of a heart attack while on a walking tour of New Hampshire
* The letter “A” in *TLS* stood for adultery
* Adulterers in New England were branded, mutilated or hanged
* Puritans had other letters to represent other crimes: D = drunk, T = thieves, B=blasphemy, I=incest
* Hawthorne buried himself in the depths of our own common nature
* Major Theme = there is no clear cut line between good and evil
* Is considered an influential member of the New England Renaissance